



Statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee comes down in Virginia capital

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — One of the nation's largest Confederate monuments came down Wednesday as workers removed a figure of Gen. Robert E. Lee that towered over Virginia's capital city for more than a century and became a target of protesters seeking to abolish symbols of racial injustice.

A crowd of onlookers erupted in cheers and song as the massive figure was lowered to the ground. A construction worker who strapped harnesses around Lee and his horse lifted his arms in the air and counted, "Three, two, one!" to jubilant shouts from hundreds of people. A work crew then began cutting it into pieces.

"Any remnant like this that

glorifies the lost cause of the Civil War, it needs to come down," said Gov. Ralph Northam, who called it "hopefully a new day, a new era in Virginia." The Democrat said the statue represented "more than 400 years of history that we should not be proud of." Sharon Jennings, an African American woman born and raised in Richmond, said she had mixed feelings seeing it go.

"It's a good day, and it's a sad day at the same time," said Jennings, 58. "It doesn't matter what color you are, if you really like history, and you understand what this street has been your whole life and you've grown up this way, you're thinking, 'Oh, my God.'"

Continued on next page



Crews remove one of the country's largest remaining monuments to the Confederacy, a towering statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee on Monument Avenue in Richmond, Va., Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021.

Associated Press

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Continued from Front

But when you get older, you understand that it does need to come down." Some chanted "Whose streets? Our streets!" and sang, "Hey, hey, hey, good-bye." One man with a Black Lives Matter flag was escorted out by police after running into the fenced-off work area. No arrests were reported, and there was no sign of a counter protest. Workers used a power saw to cut the statue in two along the general's waist, so that it can be hauled under highway overpasses to an undisclosed state-owned facility until a decision is made about its fu-



Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, and the public watch work crews work to remove one of the country's largest remaining monuments to the Confederacy, a towering statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee on Monument Avenue, Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021, in Richmond, Va.

Associated Press

ture. led by Devon Henry, a Black executive who faced death threats after his

company's role in removing Richmond's other Confederate statues was made public last year. He said the Lee statue posed their most complex challenge. "It won't transport in this height, so we need to lift the rider off the horse and transport it that way. From a thickness standpoint, we don't know how long it will take. Are there iron supports? It's a total mystery," Henry said Wednesday. By mid-afternoon, the pieces were gone. They were hauled away on a flatbed truck to cheers from the remaining crowd.

Northam ordered the statue's removal last summer, citing nationwide pain over the death of George Floyd at the hands of white police officers in Minneapolis. Litigation tied up his plans until the Supreme Court of Virginia cleared the way last week. The 21-foot (6-meter) bronze sculpture sat atop a granite pedestal nearly twice that tall, towering above Monument Avenue since 1890 in this former capital of the Confederacy.

State, capitol and city police officers closed streets for blocks around the state-owned traffic circle and used heavy equipment and barriers to keep crowds at a distance. The Federal Aviation Administration granted the state's request to ban drone flights, and the event was livestreamed through the governor's Facebook and Twitter accounts.

"This is a historic moment for the city of Richmond. The city, the community at large is saying that we're not going to stand for these symbols of hate in our city anymore," said Rachel Smucker, 28, a white woman who moved to Richmond three years ago. "I've always found it to be offensive, as a symbol of protecting slavery and the racism that people of color

still face today."


The pedestal is to remain for now, although workers are expected to remove decorative plaques and a time capsule on Thursday. After Floyd's death, the area around the statute became a hub for protests and occasional clashes between police and demonstrators. The pedestal has been covered by constantly evolving, colorful graffiti, with many of the hand-painted messages denouncing police and demanding an end to systemic racism and inequality. The sculpture was valued for its artistic quality, and it stood among four other massive Confederate statues that were removed by the city last summer.


The decisions by the governor and Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney to remove the Confederate tributes marked a major victory for civil rights activists, whose previous calls to remove the statues had been steadfastly rebuked by city and state officials alike. A statue of Black tennis hero and Richmond native Arthur Ashe erected in 1996 is expected to stay. "I think it's pretty apropos that the only remaining monument on this tree-lined street is Arthur Ashe, and I'm pretty confident he'll withstand the test of time," Stoney said.

A previous wave of advocacy and resistance led to a rally of white supremacists in the city of Charlottesville that erupted into violence in 2017. Other Confederate monuments started falling around the country. In Virginia, local governments were hamstrung by a state law protecting memorials to war veterans. That law was amended by the new Democratic majority at the Statehouse and signed by Northam, allowing localities to decide the monuments' fate as of July 1, 2020. □

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Report: Solar could power 40% of US electricity by 2035

By **MATTHEW DALY**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Solar energy has the potential to supply up to 40% of the nation's electricity within 15 years — a 10-fold increase over current solar output, but one that would require massive changes in U.S. policy and billions of dollars in federal investment to modernize the nation's electric grid, a new federal report says.

The report by the Energy Department's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy says the United States would need to quadruple its annual solar capacity — and continue to increase it year by year — as it shifts to a renewable-dominant grid in order to address the existential threat posed by climate change.

The report released Wednesday is not intended as a policy statement or administration goal, officials said. Instead, it is "designed to guide and inspire the next decade of solar innovation by helping us answer questions like: How fast does solar need to increase capacity and to what level?" said Becca



In this June 29, 2021 file photo, Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm speaks during a roundtable discussion at the Service Employees International Union 32BJ, in New York.

Associated Press

Jones-Albertus, director of the Energy Department's solar energy technologies office.

Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said in a statement that the study "illuminates the fact that solar, our cheapest and fastest-growing source of clean energy, could produce enough electricity to power all of the homes in the U.S. by 2035 and employ as

many as 1.5 million people in the process."

The report comes as President Joe Biden declared climate change has become "everybody's crisis" during a visit to neighborhoods flooded by the remnants of Hurricane Ida. Biden warned Tuesday that it's time for America to get serious about the "code red" danger posed by climate change or face

increasing loss of life and property.

"We can't turn it back very much, but we can prevent it from getting worse," Biden said before touring a New Jersey neighborhood ravaged by severe flooding caused by Ida. "We don't have any more time."

The natural disaster has given Biden an opening to push Congress to approve his plan to spend \$1 trillion

to fortify infrastructure nationwide, including electrical grids, water and sewer systems, to better defend against extreme weather. The legislation has cleared the Senate and awaits a House vote.

The U.S. installed a record 15 gigawatts of solar generating capacity in 2020, and solar now represents about just over 3% of the current electricity supply, the Energy Department said.

The "Solar Futures Study," prepared by DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, shows that, by 2035, the United States would need to quadruple its yearly solar capacity additions and provide 1,000 GW of power to a renewable-dominant grid. By 2050, solar energy could provide 1,600 GW on a zero-carbon grid — producing more electricity than consumed in all residential and commercial buildings in the country today, the report said. Decarbonizing the entire energy system could result in as much as 3,000 GW of solar by 2050 due to increased electrification in the transportation, buildings, and industrial sectors, the report said. □

Ethel Kennedy: RFK assassin Sirhan Sirhan shouldn't be freed

BOSTON (AP) — Ethel Kennedy, the wife of the late Robert F. Kennedy, says assassin Sirhan Sirhan should not be released from prison, further roiling a family divide over whether the man convicted of killing her husband in California in 1968 should be freed on parole.

In a brief statement released on Twitter by her daughter, lawyer and activist Kerry Kennedy, Ethel Kennedy said bluntly Tuesday: "He should not be paroled."

"Bobby believed we should work to 'tame the savageness of man and make gentle the life of the world,'" Kennedy, 93, wrote.

"He wanted to end the war in Vietnam and bring people together to build

a better, stronger country. More than anything, he wanted to be a good father and loving husband," she wrote, adding: "Our family and our country suffered an unspeakable loss due to the inhumanity of one man. We believe in the gentleness that spared his life, but in taming his act of violence, he should not have the opportunity to terrorize again."

Ethel Kennedy founded the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights. Her statement came a week after former U.S. Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II, RFK's oldest son, also denounced the possible parole of Sirhan, 77.

Two other RFK offspring, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Douglas Kennedy, have said they support the re-

lease.

The California Parole Board found last month that Sirhan no longer poses a threat to society, noting that he had enrolled in more than 20 programs including anger management classes, tai chi and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. Sirhan has served 53 years of a life sentence.

The ruling will be reviewed over the next four months by the board's staff. Then it will be sent to Gov. Gavin Newsom, who will have 30 days to decide whether to grant it, reverse it or modify it. Robert F. Kennedy was a U.S. senator from New York and the brother of President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated in 1963. RFK was seeking the Democratic presidential



In this June 5, 2018 file photograph, Ethel Kennedy, widow of Senator Robert F. Kennedy who was assassinated during his 1968 presidential campaign, watches a video about her late husband during the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights awards ceremony on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

nomination when he was gunned down at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles moments after de-

livering a victory speech in the pivotal California primary. Five others were wounded. □

Judge: Florida can't enforce ban on school mask mandates

By **CURT ANDERSON**
AP Legal Affairs Writer
ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)

— A Florida judge ruled Wednesday that the state cannot enforce a ban on public schools mandating the use of masks to guard against the coronavirus, while an appeals court sorts out whether the ban is ultimately legal.

Leon County Circuit Judge John C. Cooper lifted an automatic stay of his decision last week that Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis and state education officials exceeded their authority by imposing the blanket ban through executive order and tagging defiant pro-mask local school boards with financial penalties.

Cooper said the overwhelming evidence before him in a lawsuit by parents challenging the DeSantis ban is that wearing masks does provide some protection for children in crowded school settings, particularly those under 12 for whom no vaccine yet exists. The issue came to a head amid a recent surge in cases caused by the more contagious and deadly delta variant of the virus, which health statistics show has begun to wane.

"We're not in normal times. We are in a pandemic,"



In this Monday, Aug. 23, 2021, file photo, student Winston Wallace, 9, raises his hand in class at iPrep Academy on the first day of school in Miami.

Associated Press

Cooper said during a hearing held remotely. "We have a (coronavirus) variant that is more infectious and dangerous to children than the one we had last year."

Since DeSantis signed the mandatory mask ban order on July 30, 13 school boards representing more than half of Florida's 2.8 million students have adopted mask requirements with an opt-out only for medical reasons. State education officials have begun go-

ing after rebellious school board members' salaries as a form of punishment.

Jacob Oliva, public schools chancellor at the state Department of Education, said in a notice last week to local superintendents that "enforcement must cease if the stay is lifted."

The case next goes before the 1st District Court of Appeal in Tallahassee. DeSantis said at an appearance Wednesday in Palm Harbor that he is confident the state will prevail. The matter

could ultimately be decided by the Florida Supreme Court.

The core of the governor's argument is that the recently passed Parents Bill of Rights gives decision-making authority to parents on whether their children should wear a mask to school.

"What we've found is in the trial courts in Tallahassee, state and federal, we typically lose if there's a political component to it, but then in the appeals court

we almost always win," the governor said.

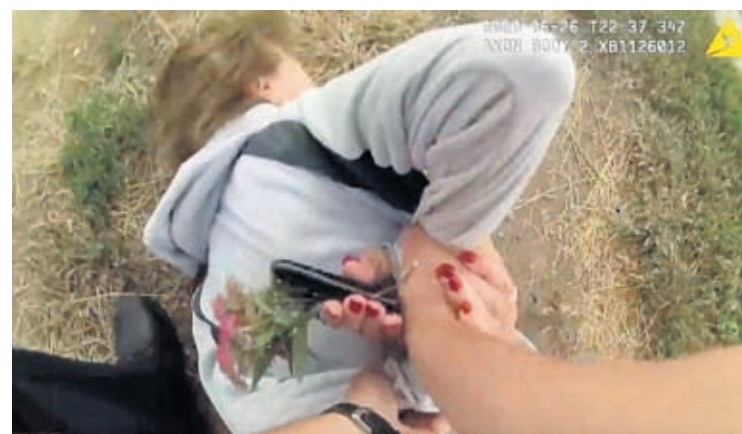
Cooper seemed to go out of his way to point out that he has frequently ruled in favor of Florida governors in the past, including cases involving GOP Govs. Jeb Bush and Rick Scott. Cooper has been a Leon County circuit judge since he was first elected in 2002. "If you look at my record, it's not somebody who runs all over the place, ruling against the governor," Cooper said. "This case has generated a lot of heat and a lot of light."

On the Parents Bill of Rights, Cooper said his previous order follows the law as passed earlier this year by the Legislature. The law, he said, reserves health and education decisions regarding children to parents unless a government entity such as a school board can show their broader action is reasonable and narrowly tailored to the issue at hand.

The DeSantis order impermissibly enforces only the first portion of that law, Cooper said.

"You have to show you have authority to do what you're doing," the judge said. "You cannot enforce part of that law but not all of it." □

\$3M deal reached in rough arrest of woman with dementia



This video from the Loveland Police Department body camera footage shows Karen Garner on the ground while being arrested on June 26, 2020.

Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A Colorado city has agreed to pay \$3 million to a 73-year-old woman with dementia who was roughly arrested by police last year, officials

announced Wednesday. Then-Officer Austin Hopp arrested Karen Garner after she left a store without paying for about \$14 worth of items in Loveland,

about 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of Denver. Police body camera video shows that after she turned away from him, he grabbed her arm and pushed her to the ground. A federal lawsuit that Garner filed claimed he dislocated her shoulder by shoving her handcuffed left arm forward onto the hood of a patrol car.

City Manager Steve Adams apologized to Garner and her family in the announcement of the proposed settlement, which was confirmed by Garner's lawyer, Sarah Schielke.

"The settlement with Karen Garner will help bring some closure to an unfortunate event in our community but does not upend the work

we have left to do," Adams said.

Garner's lawyer and her family plan to hold a press conference Wednesday to talk about the settlement. Hopp has been charged with second-degree assault in the arrest. At a court hearing last month to weigh the evidence against him, his lawyer, Jonathan Datz, argued that Hopp's supervisors determined his actions to be acceptable, the Loveland Reporter-Herald reported. A representative from Datz's office said Wednesday that he declined to comment.

The body camera footage shows that when Hopp has Garner pushed against the hood of his car, she tried to

turn around and repeated that she was trying to go home. He then pushed her back against the car and moved her bent left arm up near her head, holding it, saying, "Are you finished? Are you finished? We don't play this game."

Investigators found that Hopp filed reports to mislead his superiors and protect himself, according to his arrest affidavit. He did not mention Garner's shoulder injury in an initial report. In a report filed after being told that she was going to the hospital, he wrote that Garner was asked several times if she wanted medical attention but that she did not answer, according to the affidavit. □

U.S. Navy launches Mideast drone task force amid Iran tensions

By JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) —

The U.S. Navy's Mideast-based 5th Fleet said Wednesday it will launch a new task force that incorporates airborne, sailing and underwater drones after years of maritime attacks linked to ongoing tensions with Iran.

Navy officials declined to identify which systems they would introduce from their headquarters on the island nation of Bahrain in the Persian Gulf. However, they promised the coming months would see the drones stretch their capabilities across a region of chokepoints crucial to both global energy supplies and worldwide shipping.

"We want to put more systems out in the maritime domain above, on and below the sea," said Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, who leads the 5th Fleet. "We want more eyes on what's happening out there."

The 5th Fleet includes the crucial Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which 20% of all oil passes. It also stretches as far as the Red Sea reaches near the Suez Canal, the waterway in



In this handout image from the U.S. Navy, an MQ-9 Sea Guardian unmanned maritime surveillance drone flies over the USS Coronado in the Pacific Ocean during a drill April 21, 2021.

Associated Press

Egypt linking the Mideast to the Mediterranean, and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait off Yemen. The systems being used by the 5th Fleet's new Task Force 59 will include some of those involved in an April test led by the Navy's Pacific Fleet. Drones used in that exercise included ultra-endurance aerial surveillance drones, surface ships the Sea Hawk and the Sea Hunter and smaller underwater drones that resemble torpedoes.

The 5th Fleet includes shallow water areas, salty waters and temperatures in the summertime that can go above 45 degrees Celsius (113 degrees Fahrenheit) with high humidity. That can prove rough for crewed vessels, let alone those running remotely.

"I think that environment really suits us well to experiment and move faster," Cooper said. "And our belief is if the new systems can work here, they can prob-

ably work anywhere else and can scale them across other fleets."

It also represents a region that has seen a series of at-sea attacks in recent years. Off Yemen, bomb-laden drone boats and mines set adrift by Yemen's Houthi rebels have damaged vessels amid that country's yearslong war. Near the United Arab Emirates and the Strait of Hormuz, oil tankers have been seized by Iranian forces.

Suspicious explosions also have struck vessels in the region, ranging from tankers owned by Western firms, ships tied to Israel and Iranian vessels. Those attacks have become part of a wider shadow war playing out across the region in the wake of then-President Donald Trump's 2018 decision to unilaterally withdraw from Iran's nuclear deal with world powers. Iran even shot down an American drone amid the tensions.

While President Joe Biden has said he's willing to re-enter the deal, negotiations in Vienna have stalled as Iran now has a new hard-line president. That leaves open the possibility of further attacks by Iran as well as by Israel, which has been suspected in incidents targeting Iranian shipping and its nuclear program.

Cooper acknowledged the tensions in his remarks to journalists Wednesday, but declined to go into specifics.

"We're very aware of Iran's posture and we'll be prepared to deal with that appropriately," the vice admiral said. "I'm going to leave it at that." □

Trudeau hit by gravel, says it won't stop how he campaigns

By ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Tuesday he won't alter how he campaigns after he and others were hit by gravel thrown by an anti-vaccine protester during the campaign this week.

Trudeau has faced increasingly hostile protests by what he calls "anti-Vax mobs" ahead of the Sept. 20 election. During a campaign stop in London, Ontario on Monday Trudeau and some journalists were hit by gravel thrown by a protester as he boarded his campaign bus.

"Anti-Vax mobs are not respecting the basic science and the basic decency that Canadians have

come to expect from each other," Trudeau said.

"It is absolutely unacceptable that people are throwing things and endangering

others at a political rally."

Police in London, Ontario, say they are investigating and are asking the public for information about the



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks to media following a meeting with Governor General Mary Simon at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, on Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021.

Associated Press

incident.

Trudeau said Canadians are proud of the fact that Canada is not like the United States and he won't change.

"Canadians are reassured and even proud of the fact that we're not the United States, that a prime minister or a candidate can walk down the street without fear of being attacked," Trudeau said.

Last month, a Trudeau campaign event was cancelled because of security concerns.

Trudeau has been critical of the unvaccinated and of Conservative leader Erin O'Toole, who had not mandated that his candidates be vaccinated.

O'Toole said he believes the country can find rea-

sonable accommodations for those who are unvaccinated, like rapid testing and social distancing.

Four provinces including Quebec and Ontario, Canada's largest, are bringing in vaccine passports that require citizens to be vaccinated to enter places like restaurants and gyms.

Trudeau called the election last month seeking to win the majority of seats in Parliament but polls show that is unlikely and that he could lose power to O'Toole and the Conservative party.

Trudeau had wanted to capitalize on the fact that Canada is now one of the most fully vaccinated countries in the world, but the country is now in a fourth wave driven by the delta variant. □

Fire kills 41 inmates, 80 hurt at crowded Indonesian prison

By NINIEK KARMINI

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

— A massive fire raged through an overcrowded prison near Indonesia's capital early Wednesday, killing at least 41 inmates, two of them foreigners serving drug sentences, and injuring 80 others.

Firefighters battled through the early morning hours to extinguish the flames as black smoke billowed from the compound of the Tangerang prison on the outskirts of Jakarta.

After the blaze was extinguished, ambulance after ambulance filled with body bags containing the victims were driven by Red Cross workers to the morgue of a local hospital, where they were stacked wall-to-wall on the floor of a room awaiting transport to a larger facility for identification.

Relatives of prisoners trickled in to the prison throughout the day to check and see whether their loved ones were among those killed.

Most of the 41 killed were drug convicts, including a man from South Africa and a man from Portugal, while



This photo released by Indonesian Ministry of Justice and Human Rights shows debris inside a charred prison cell after a fire at Tangerang Prison in Tangerang, Indonesia, Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021.

other victims included a terrorism convict and a murderer, Indonesia's Law and Human Rights minister Yasona Laoly told reporters.

He expressed his deep condolences for the families of the victims and pledged to provide the best treatment for those injured.

"This is a tragedy that concerns all of us," Laoly said.

"We are working closely with all relevant parties to investigate the causes of the fire."

The fire broke out at 1:45 a.m. in Block C2 of the prison, where the 19 cells that were built to hold 40 inmates were stuffed full with more than triple that number. The cause of the blaze appears to have been an electrical short circuit, ac-

According to initial findings, Jakarta Police Chief Fadil Imran said.

As the fire was brought under control, hundreds of police and soldiers were deployed around the prison to prevent prisoners from escaping, Imran told reporters near the scene.

Problems are rampant in Indonesia's prisons, largely

due to overcrowding. More than half of the system's inmates are being held on narcotics offenses; a product of the country's war on drugs.

As of July, there were a total of 268,610 inmates in Indonesia's prisons, which were built to hold 132,107 people.

Tangerang prison, located in the heart of Tangerang city in Jakarta's neighboring province of Banten, was designed to house 900 inmates but has more than 2,000, Laoly said. Officials had earlier said it was built to accommodate 1,225 inmates.

The government has acknowledged the problem, and is planning to refocus its approach toward drug offenders to start looking at them as addicts who need treatment, rather than criminals, in the hope of dramatically reducing the number incarcerated. □

Reynhard Silitonga, the head of corrections at the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, told The Associated Press in an e-mail that if there isn't a change in policy, the number of inmates could top 400,000 within five years. □

Associated Press

U.K., France grapple with surge in migrant Channel crossings

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's interior minister was meeting her French counterpart on Wednesday as the U.K. pressed France to do more to stop a surge of migrants

trying to cross the English Channel in small boats.

Dozens of women, men and children, wrapped up in blankets, were brought ashore Wednesday in the southeast England port of Dover by British Border

Force boats after being picked up from dinghies in the Channel.

Thousands of migrants have landed on beaches in southeast England in recent days amid calm, summery weather, with 785 arriving on Monday alone, according to Britain's Home Office. More than 12,000 have made the crossing this year, according to Britain's Press Association news agency. In 2020, about 8,500 people made the journey, and several died in the attempt.

Migrants have long used northern France as a launching point to reach Britain, either by stowing away in trucks or on ferries, or increasingly since the coronavirus pandemic disrupted international travel in dinghies and other small

boats organized by smugglers.

The British and French governments have worked for years to stop the journeys, without much success. Earlier this year, Britain agreed to give France 54 million pounds (\$74 million) to help fund a doubling of the number of police patrolling French beaches.

But Channel crossings continue to soar. According to the French Maritime Prefecture in charge of the Channel, this year through July has seen 556 "operations" involving 12,148 migrants attempting to cross or crossing the Channel by boat. That compares to 868 such events involving 9,551 migrants in all of 2020.

Britain has not yet paid the promised money, and U.K. Home Secretary Priti Patel

has suggested she could withhold it if France does not do more to stop the smuggling boats from departing. She will talk with French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin during a two-day G-7 interior ministers' meeting in London that begins Wednesday.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said stopping the crossings depended largely on the French authorities. "We depend to a large extent on what the French are doing, but clearly as time goes on and this problem continues, we are going to have to make sure that we use every possible tactic at our disposal to stop what I think is a vile trade and a manipulation of people's hopes," he told lawmakers in the House of Commons. □



A group of people thought to be migrants are brought in to Dover, following a small boat incident in the Channel, in Kent, England, Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021.

Associated Press

Early stumble as El Salvador starts Bitcoin as currency

By MARCOS ALEMAN

Associated Press

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — El Salvador be-

came the first country to adopt Bitcoin as legal tender Tuesday, but the rollout stumbled in its first hours and President Nayib Bukele said the digital wallet used for transactions was not functioning.

For part of the morning, El Salvador's president became tech support for a nation stepping into the world of cryptocurrency. Bukele marshaled his Twitter account with more than 2.8 million followers to walk users through what was happening.

Bukele explained that the digital wallet Chivo had been disconnected while server capacity was increased.

The president said it was a relatively simple problem. "We prefer to correct it before we connect it again," Bukele said. He encouraged followers to download the app and leave comments about how it was going.

Meanwhile, the value of



A newspaper vendor shows the front page of a state-run newspaper carrying the headline "Bitcoin Day" in San Salvador, El Salvador, Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021.

Bitcoin plummeted early Tuesday, dropping from more than \$52,000 per coin to \$42,000, before recovering about half of that loss an example of the volatility that worries many.

The government has promised to install 200 Chivo automatic tellers and 50 Bitcoin attention centers.

The Associated Press visited one of the automatic tellers in San Salvador's historic center, where attendants waited to help citizens, who initially didn't show much interest.

Asked if he had downloaded the Chivo app, Emanuel Ceballos, said he had not. "I don't know if I'm going

to do it, I still have doubts about using that currency." José Martín Tenorio said he was interested in Bitcoin, but had not downloaded the app either. "I'm running to work. Maybe at home tonight."

In Santa Tecla, a San Salvador suburb, young attendants were waiting to assist

people at a help center. Denis Rivera arrived with a friend because they had been trying to download the digital wallet app without success.

He said he didn't understand why some people "have been scandalized" by Bitcoin.

"We've been using debit and credit cards for years and it's the same, electronic money," he said.

He was in favor of it and planned to use the \$30 offered by the government as an incentive to try it out. "I'm going to see how efficient it is and practical it can be and based on that decide if I keep using it or not."

José Luis Hernández, owner of a barbershop in the area, came looking for information.

"I have a small business and I want to know how to use the application and how are the rates and all of that," Hernández said.

The AP confirmed that at least three international fast food chain restaurants were accepting Bitcoin payments. □

Associated Press

Cleanup begins in Acapulco after strong earthquake

By JOSÉ ANTONIO RIVERA

Associated Press

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP) — Residents of Acapulco

began cleaning up broken glass and chunks of plaster Wednesday as they took in the full impact of a magnitude 7 earthquake cen-

tered nearby that shook most of southern Mexico, killing one person.

Many people slept outside overnight as more than 150 aftershocks rattled the hills around the beachside destination. The quake struck shortly before 9 p.m., send-

ing panicked people into the streets in Acapulco as well as in Mexico City, where it swayed buildings nearly 200 miles (320 kilometers) from the epicenter. The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake was centered 17 kilometers (about 10 miles) northeast of Acapulco.

"Fortunately, there was not greater damage," President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Wednesday. "So far one victim, a young man who was driving a motorcycle and lost his life" in nearby Coyuca de Benitez. The temblor caused landslides, but major highways were open. The Acapulco airport suspended operations, but the company operating it said it planned to resume normal operations by midday. □



A man walks in from of a convenience store on a street covered with debris after a strong earthquake, in Acapulco, Mexico, Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2021.

Associated Press

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Amazing things to know about Aruba

1. Everyone native Aruban speaks four languages; English, Spanish, Dutch and Papiamentu. Dutch and Papiamentu are the official languages of Aruba.
2. The origin of Papiamentu is still a bit of a mystery. However, Arubans say that it was developed from Portugeuse-African pidgin which was used as the language for communication between slaves and slave traders. There are also some Dutch and Spanish influences.
3. In most schools in Aruba children have all their lessons in Dutch. They can only speak Papiamentu during the Papiamentu class.
4. Aruba is a former Dutch colony. It is now its own country. However, Aruba is still part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
5. Aruba is not in Hurricane Alley, which means there's no BAD time to visit Aruba.
6. Aruba's currency is the Aruban florin which is worth about 0.56 US Dollars. Dollars are accepted everywhere though.
7. The crime rate in Aruba is pretty low. It is one of the safest islands in the Caribbean.
8. Carnival in Aruba is a BIG DEAL. It's not just Brazil! There's parades, Carnival Queen elections, dance competitions and more. So if you're in Aruba in February, make sure to attend one of the many Carnival events. Let's see if Covid will allow us to have carnival back in 2022.
9. We produce our own drinking water thanks to their desalination plant. You can drink
10. Aruba is home to a rare species of the burrowing owl. It lives in burrows in the ground hidden by cacti. It is one of Aruba's national symbols and appears on postage stamps.
11. Before Covid Aruba had over a million tourists visit its shores. That's around 10 times the local population.
12. There are over 90 different nationalities living on the island in pretty much perfect harmony.
13. The Aruban flag was adopted in 1976.
14. Aruba's national day is March 18th. Just after St. Patrick's day.

the water straight from the taps. The electricity on the island is also a by-product of the desalination plant.



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Aruba's natural product: phosphate

ORANJESTAD — In the 19th century another natural product, besides gold, was found to be fit for exploitation. On Seroe Colorado, at the utmost south-easterly tip of the island, guano was found. This limestone, containing phosphoric acid, originates from bird droppings, in this case sea gulls. There was a broad world market for phosphate that was used as a fertilizer.

The discovery of guano is being credited to J. H. Waters Gravenhorst in 1874, but it seems that in 1859 already an American, S. R. Kimball, who was digging guano on the Aves islands, had applied for a permit for exploitation. If it actually has come to that, remains unknown.

In 1871, guano had also been discovered on Klein Curaçao by the Englishman John Godden. His discovery caused quite a hype on de Antillian islands, a kind of 'guano mania'. On Curaçao too, guano was found and exploited by Godden. The phosphate was very conspicuous by its color: yellow to red-brown or the color of liver, sometimes green or purple. That's how Seroe Colorado (the Colored Hill) got its name.

After the discovery of guano on Aruba by Gravenhorst, exploitation was started by the Aruba Phosphaat Maatschappij (APM), founded in December of 1879. The center of exportation was San Nicolas, which only consisted of a few fishermen's huts before. The activities surrounding the exploitation and exportation of phosphate led to more and more huts being built there. It already started to look quite like a little village, where sailors from the ships that came for the phosphate came looking for distraction ashore. Local labor was initially only found with difficulty: that was because of the rival branch of industry, the exploitation of gold. That's why forty men were attracted from Bonaire and about twenty bricklayers and carpenters from Curaçao. Even a group of Italians was attracted to the island to manage the company; four of them never left the island: Antonio and Victorio Petrocci, Eugenio Falconi and Cajetano Jacopucci. They settled at Tanki Leendert.

The exploitation of phosphate led to the development of the settlement of Sint Nicolaas. First a wooden pier was built in the harbor and the phosphate was taken there by donkey. In 1881, new material arrived from England and New York. The installations that were built then were ultramodern for that time. In the Sint Nicolaasbay, an iron landing was built and that was the most modern harbor facility in the whole Caribbean at that time. For the transport of the phosphate to the harbor, a six kilometer long narrow gauge railway was built and the phosphate was taken to the loading berth in trains of about twenty tip carts and a steam locomotive. There it was loaded into sail ships that took it to countries like England, France, Germany and the United States to be processed to super phosphate that was used as fertilizer. The phosphate company had its own tugboat (the 'S.S. Phosphate') and its own pilot to get the ships safely in and out of the Sint Nico-

laasbay. The time that was needed to load a ship was being reduced from 15 to 5 days. Three- to five hundred tons of phosphate per day could be handled by the pier. In 1882, about 250 men worked in the phosphate industry and the salaries were not bad. People came from all over the island to work in the phosphate mines; those who lived in the surroundings of Noord, had to get on their way by foot or on a donkey by Sunday afternoon, stayed overnight in Savaneta to start working on Monday. The workers stayed near the phosphate mines all week and slept in barracks. On Saturdays, they worked half day, after which they set out to return home on foot or on a donkey.....

Business went well and soon a profit was made which allowed paying off the loans that were made for the investments. A dividend could be paid out as well. Initially, phosphate was extracted on Seroe Colorado and Seroe Culebra. When the supply at the surface of the hills was exhausted after about fifteen years, they went on to look for phosphate deeper in the ground. On a depth of 15 to 18 meters, phosphate layers, six feet thick on average, were discovered at Banki Jerome, a bit more to the north. Mines were made to bring up the material. Those provided enough phosphate for the next 15 years. Holes were drilled by hand into the phosphate and then it was extracted with explosives.

The exploitation of the phosphate caused the revenues of the island to rise considerably and that made it possible to support the other islands of the colony Curaçao (the Netherlands Antilles did not yet exist) as well. In the years of exploitation (that went on till 1914), 530.060 tons were exported with a total market value of almost 17 million guilders. Aruba could generate about 4 million guilders from exportation taxes.

But in the course of the years, phosphate exploitation became less profitable: as the phosphate had to be extracted from deeper underground, the quality became poorer. Furthermore, there was strong competition from good quality phosphate from Canada. Good and relatively cheap phosphate came out of Florida as well and as a result, the global prices went down. The APM found out that the expenses to exploit phosphate were too high to be able to still be competitive. Even though the tax rates had been reduced by the government, the profits continued to go down and finally the expenses could not be covered anymore.

When World War I broke out in 1914, the exploitation of phosphate became very difficult. It was impossible to get dynamite and the means of exportation became worse as a result of the war in Europe. The Aruba Phosphaat Maatschappij closed down in August of 1914 and a year later, the company was dissolved by its shareholders. Workers left again and went looking for work in the surrounding countries like Venezuela and Colombia. □

Source: www.historiadiaruba.aw.

Revlon CEO discusses pandemic beauty habits, staying nimble

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When Debra Perelman took over as Revlon's first woman CEO in its 89-year-old history in 2018, the global beauty company was already facing big challenges.

The publicly traded company, which is backed by her billionaire father Ron Perelman's MacAndrews & Forbes Inc., and which also owns iconic brands like Almay and Elizabeth Arden, had been struggling for years. That includes a heavy debt load, changing consumer tastes and intense competition, most recently from celebrity launches like Kylie Jenner-backed Kylie.

Revlon's problems only intensified with the pandemic, which hurt sales of lipsticks as people masked up. Sales fell 21% to \$1.9 billion in 2020. The company avoided bankruptcy late last year by persuading enough bondholders to extend its maturing debt.

It's a big change from when Revlon in its heyday throughout much of the 20th century was the second largest cosmetics company by sales, behind only Avon. Now, it's ranked number 22, according to a ranking by fashion trade WWD. Shares of Revlon are trading around \$11, far from the near \$80 level it traded 20 years ago.

Perelman, 48 and a self-proclaimed makeup junkie, says she's optimistic about the future. As women venture out, Revlon's makeup sales are rebounding, though she's monitoring the delta variant. She also has used the health crisis as an opportunity to double-down on investments online. During the pandemic, Elizabeth Arden launched one-on-one virtual consultations, for example.

The company is learning from celebrity launches like Kylie to be more nimble; it's cutting months off of developing new product launches. Perelman says she's also seeing Revlon regaining market share. For the first half, the company's sales increase nearly 18% to



Revlon CEO Debra Perelman, the company's first woman CEO in its 89-year-old history, listen during an interview, Wednesday Aug. 18, 2021, in New York.

Associated Press

\$942.4 million and its losses shrunk to \$163.7 million from \$340.7 million in the year-ago period.

Perelman has also made a commitment to such issues as diversity and sustainability. Her current leadership team is more than 50% female. The pandemic has also inspired her to hold talks on mental health at the company. Thirteen years ago, she co-founded Child Mind Institute, a national nonprofit dedicated to helping children and families struggling with mental health and learning disorders. Perelman has a personal connection to the issue: her now 17-year-old daughter was diagnosed with an anxiety condition as a young child.

The Associated Press interviewed Perelman about beauty habits during the pandemic and how to stay nimble. Her responses have been edited for clarity and length.

Q. Do you find it odd that you're Revlon's first female

CEO in its long history?

A. I'm extremely humbled to be the first female CEO in Revlon's history. While I'm the first woman to hold the CEO role in our peer set of large legacy beauty companies, I stand on the shoulders of those who came before me. Elizabeth Arden, as an example, founded her namesake brand over 100 years ago. Today, there are many female leaders in the industry who have had tremendous impact, particularly when we look to the indie space.

Q. What are your key priorities?

A. In 2018, our e-commerce as a percent of our net sales was 2% and at the end of last year it was 20%, which is an incredible acceleration of our capability as well as from a business standpoint, our results. I've also made a commitment within the company on diversity and inclusion and sustainability.

Q. Tell me more about diversity and sustainability.

A. At the beginning of

2021, (new product developments) — two thirds of them — had sustainable elements. Most recently, we partnered with United Negro Fund in funding scholarships of students in the market as well as we partnered with the not-for-profit Beauty United, which is committed to increasing diversity and beauty.

Q. Which product areas are you focusing on?

A. During the pandemic, we were very focused on skin care as well as hair color. Whereas today we're focused on color cosmetics, skin care fragrances, which has had an incredible comeback in the market.

Q. How do you reverse declining market share?

A. The focus has been on strengthening key brands and key markets. And when you look at Revlon, the number three global color cosmetic brand, we still have an incredible place in the market and very high brand recognition. In our

most recent quarter earnings, we're growing beyond the category, which means that we are gaining market share.

Q. How do you compete with celebrity brands like Kylie?

A. I think they've been incredible for the beauty industry. They're bringing new users into the industry. So that's better for all beauty companies, and they have been able to create a path and a different business model in terms of how they're executing a market to really resonate with the consumer. It has helped us in different ways, such as how we accelerate e-commerce.

Q. Any examples?

A. We started to work in specific pods that were responsible for that business. So they made all the decisions on how they were going to go to market, what they needed and how fast they needed to move. It wasn't up a chain. It was just isolated to that business group, which was a tremendous learning for the company. And we rolled it out to other parts of the business so that we can be faster.

Q. What is it like to have your father, Ron Perelman, as the chairman and majority owner of Revlon's shares through MacAndrews & Forbes?

A. We have a very good working relationship. We speak every single day. I am very fortunate that he has such experience with not only this company, but so many other companies, and he's able to bring that experience and guidance to the table with me.

Q. How has the pandemic changed your management style?

A. It has changed my leadership style. And I think it's changed a lot of people's leadership style because we had to adapt to the changes that were going on with our employees. So I do think that empathy and compassion has become much more of a presence in my leadership style, and I think in others' leadership style. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Indian city
- 6 Blubbers
- 11 Spring sign
- 12 Be of use
- 13 More reasonable
- 14 Three-score
- 15 Euphoric
- 17 "Far out!"
- 19 Hosp. sections
- 20 Blubber
- 23 Not worthless
- 25 Minute
- 26 Standard baseball game
- 28 Diplomacy
- 29 Elvis's birthplace
- 30 Low digit
- 31 Steady run
- 32 Signing need
- 33 Plane's place
- 35 Garfield's middle name
- 38 Writer Segal
- 41 Hard stuff
- 42 High-strung
- 43 Cryptography topics
- 44 Glossy fabric

DOWN

- 1 German article
- 2 Pitcher's stat
- 3 Country bar activity
- 4 Shoe part
- 5 Tel Aviv native
- 6 Diamond corners
- 7 Eager
- 8 Crayon makeup
- 9 Illuminated
- 10 Cunning
- 16 Eastern state capital
- 17 Cost as much as
- 18 Chinese or Korean
- 20 Contract conditions
- 21 Protractor measure
- 22 Holyfield rival
- 24 Track act
- 25 Service reward
- 27 Denver team
- 31 Madison
- 33 Visibility reducer
- 34 Open space
- 35 Jackson 5 hit
- 36 Scary shout
- 37 Cone's counterpart
- 39 Vegas-set series
- 40 Egg layer

A	P	S	E	S		P	O	T	S
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Yesterday's answer

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*3						14				
		15			16					
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26						27				
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35	36	37				38			39	40
41						42				
43						44				

9-9

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-9

CRYPTOQUOTE

FWBBRVHZZ RZ FWORVE W
JWGEH. JMORVE. LWGRVE.
LJMZH-UVRY SWNRJD RV
WVMYFHG LRYD. — EHMGEH
XAGVZ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ALWAYS BE A FIRST-RATE VERSION OF YOURSELF, INSTEAD OF A SECOND-RATE VERSION OF SOMEBODY ELSE. — JUDY GARLAND

Study calls for strict limits on oil, coal to curb warming

By DREW COSTLEY
AP Science Writer

Researchers who estimate how much of the world's coal, oil and natural gas reserves should be left unburned to slow the increase in climate-changing gases in the atmosphere say even more of these fossil fuels should be left in the ground.

The researchers, from University College London, say earlier estimates, published in 2015, had to be updated.

They now calculate that nearly 60% of the world's oil and gas reserves and 90% of the coal reserves need to stay in the ground by 2050 to meet climate goals of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Those limits would give the world a 50-50 chance of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to pre-industrial times, according to their study Wednesday in the journal Nature.

"We believe on new paper adds further weight to recent research that indi-



This Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2021 photo provided by the Tennessee Valley Authority shows the implosion of the idled Colbert Fossil Plant at Tuscumbia, Ala.

Associated Press

cates the global oil and fossil methane gas production needs to peak now," Dan Welsby, lead author and an energy and environment researcher at the University College London, told a news conference Tuesday. "We found that global production needs decline at an average annual rate of around 3 percent (through) 2050."

It's been long known that emissions from burning fuels for electricity, transportation and other uses are the chief driver of climate change, pulling long-bur-

ied carbon in fossil fuels out of the ground and depositing that carbon into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide. Scientists say such heat-trapping gases are causing sea-level rise and extreme weather events around the world.

The last study like this was several months before world leaders drafted the 2015 Paris accord and pledged to reduce warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), but preferably to limit it to 1.5 degrees Celsius. □

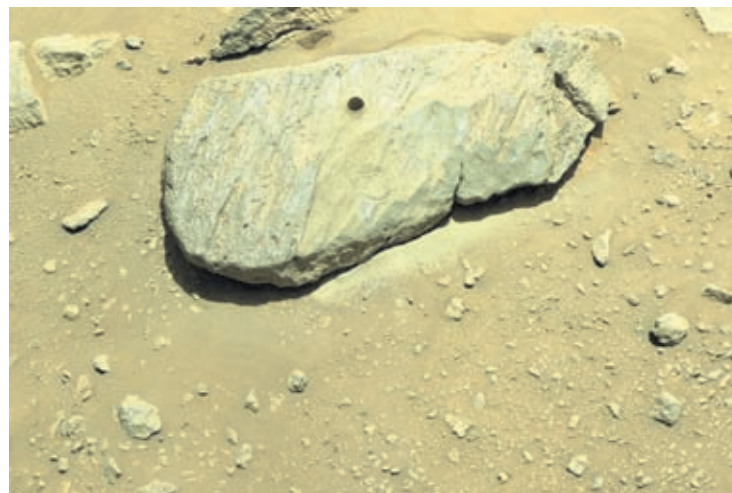
NASA confirms Mars rover's 1st rock sample grab, 40 to go

By MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — NASA's newest Mars rover has completed its first sample grab, tucking away the tube of rock for return

to Earth.

The Perseverance rover team confirmed last week's successful drilling and collection, after reviewing photos of the core sample. NASA wanted to be certain



This Sept. 1, 2021 image provided by NASA shows the hole drilled by the Perseverance rover during its second sample-collection attempt in Mars' Jezero Crater.

Associated Press

the sample was safe inside the titanium tube, before sharing the news Monday. During Perseverance's first sampling attempt in early August, the unexpectedly soft rock crumbled. Flight controllers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, sought out harder rock for the second try.

Perseverance arrived in February at Mars' Jezero Crater a former lakebed and river delta in search of rocks that could contain evidence of past Martian life.

Future spacecraft will collect the specimens and deliver them to Earth a decade from now. The rover has more than 40 sample tubes. □

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Associated Press Illustration/Peter Hamlin

What is the mu variant of the coronavirus?

By **MARIA CHENG**
AP Medical Writer

What is the mu variant?
It's a version of the coronavirus that was first identified in Colombia in January and has since caused isolated outbreaks in South America, Europe and the United States.
The World Health Organization last month listed it as a "variant of interest" because of concerns it may make vaccines and treatments less effective, though more evidence is needed.
Scientists monitor emerging COVID-19 variants based on suspicious genetic changes and then look for evidence to determine

whether the new version is more infectious or causes more severe illness. Viruses evolve constantly and many new variants often fade away.

So far, the mu variant doesn't seem to be spreading quickly: It accounts for fewer than 1% of COVID-19 cases globally.

In Colombia, it may be responsible for about 39% of cases. Most countries remain concerned about the highly contagious delta variant; it is the dominant variant in almost all of the 174 countries where it's been detected. □



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A fall movie season (like everything else) in flux

By JAKE COYLE

AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Filmmaker Cary Fukunaga has been waiting more than a year and a half for the biggest movie of his career, the James Bond film "No Time to Die," to arrive in theaters. It has been a strange and surreal wait. Months before the much-delayed movie is even released on Oct. 8, the film's theme song, by Billie Eilish, already won a Grammy.

"I had a dream last night where Sam Mendes was there," Fukunaga said in a recent interview, referring to the director of the previous two Bond movies. "We were on vacation on some frozen lake. He was done with Bond films. And he was like, 'Oh, you finished one. Now you get a break.' Then we started, like, water skiing on a frozen lake."

"It was a weird dream," says Fukunaga.

The fall movie season — usually a reliable rhythm and cozy autumn comfort — is, like much of the past 18 months, a little disorienting. On the way are movies once planned to open as far back as April 2020, like "No Time to Die," summer movies that hope to find better conditions in autumn, and films that have been shot and edited during the pandemic.

What has coalesced is a movie mishmash — something much more robust than last fall's cobbled together, mostly virtual fall movie season — a season that stretched all the way



This combination of images shows promotional art for upcoming films, top row from left, "No Time to Die," "The Last Duel," "The Many Saints of Newark," "House of Gucci," "Dune" and "The French Dispatch," bottom row from left, "The Eyes of Tammy Faye," "Ghostbusters: Afterlife," "The Guilty," "Dear Evan Hansen," "Venom: Let There Be Carnage," and "King Richard." (Top row from left, MGM/20th Century Studios/Warner Bros-HBO Max/MGM/Warner Bros. Pictures/Searchlight Pictures, bottom row from left, Searchlight Pictures/Sony Pictures/Netflix/Universal/Sony Pictures/Warner Bros Pictures via AP)

Associated Press

to the Oscars in April. But the recent rise in COVID-19 cases due to the delta variant has added new uncertainty to a time Hollywood had once hoped would be nearing normality.

"Everything is fluid, and everything will stay fluid," says Tom Rothman, chairman and chief executive of Sony Pictures. "It's the antithesis of the way it used to be. In the old days, you planted your flag and you didn't move for hell or high water. Now, there's a great premium on being very flexible and nimble."

The unpredictability of the conditions is universally shared but acutely felt at studios like Sony that even through the pandemic have remained largely committed to exclusively theatrical releases. While

Disney (with Disney+) and Warner Bros. (with HBO Max) have sought to hedge their bets and boost subscribers to their streaming services with day-and-date releases in 2021, Sony, Universal, Paramount and MGM (home to Bond) — with various windowing strategies — have mostly stuck to theater-first plans. In all the movies coming this fall — among them "The Last Duel" (Oct. 15), "Dune" (Oct. 22), "Eternals" (Nov. 5), "House of Gucci" (Nov. 24) — nothing may be quite as tense as the ever-unfolding drama around old-fashioned, butts-in-the-seats moviegoing. Citing the delta-driven surge, Paramount has uprooted from the season, booting "Top Gun: Maverick" to next year. But on the heels

of some promising box-office performances, many of the fall's top movies and leading Oscar hopefuls are only doubling down on theatrical, and the cultural impact that comes with it. Even if it's a gamble.

After building confidence in moviegoing over the summer, delta has sapped some of Hollywood's momentum. The National Research Group had recorded more than 80% of moviegoers were comfortable going to theaters in July. But that number dipped to 67% last month.

Yet summer's last big movie, Marvel's "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings," gave the fall a major lift with \$90 million in estimated ticket sales over the four-day Labor Day weekend — one of the best

performances of the pandemic. Notably, it was only playing in theaters. Even before all the numbers were in, Rothman and Sony moved up the release of "Venom: Let There Be Carnage," the sequel to its \$856 million superhero hit, by two weeks to Oct. 1. It kicks off Sony's slate including Jason Reitman's "Ghostbusters: Afterlife" (Nov. 19), Denzel Washington's "A Journal for Jordan" (Dec. 10) and "Spider-Man: No Way Home" (Dec. 17).

Expect little of the debates about the future of movie theaters to get settled anytime soon.

"Until the pandemic is genuinely behind us, I don't think that you can prognosticate about what the future of cinema is going to be," says Rothman. "It's still on emergency footing right now."

So Hollywood's summer in limbo will stretch into the fall. But more than any previous point in the pandemic, a whole lot of movies are lined up. The Venice and Telluride film festivals have kindled buzz for a wide array of upcoming films, including Jane Campion's lauded Netflix drama "The Power of the Dog" (Nov. 17), with Benedict Cumberbatch. The Oscar race could have some major star power, too. Among the early standouts: Kristen Stewart as Princess Diana in "Spencer" (Nov. 5) and Will Smith as Richard Williams, father of Venus and Serena, in "King Richard" (Nov. 19). □



This undated image released by MSNBC shows news anchor Jose Diaz-Balart who will return to MSNBC later this month to host a weekday show at the 10 a.m. hour.

Associated Press

MSNBC brings back Jose Diaz-Balart for daytime show

NEW YORK (AP) — Veteran anchor Jose Diaz-Balart is returning to the MSNBC lineup later this month as host of the 10 a.m. news hour on weekdays, the network announced on Tuesday. Diaz-Balart was an anchor on MSNBC from 2014-16. His return is part of NBC Universal News Group Chairman's Cesar Conde's effort to bring more diverse voices to the network.

Diaz-Balart, also an anchor for "Noticias Telemundo," has anchored national

newscasts in both English and Spanish in a journalism career that began in 1983. Hallie Jackson, who has anchored the 10 a.m. hour for five years, will shift to the 3 p.m. hour. Jackson and another MSNBC personality, Joshua Johnson, will both debut shows on the NBC News NOW streaming service this fall.

Ayman Mohyeldin will host prime-time MSNBC shows on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the network said. □

Qualifier Raducanu, 18, tops Bencic in U.S. Open quarterfinals

NEW YORK (AP) — Emma Raducanu came to Flushing Meadows for her second Grand Slam tournament ranked so low that she needed to go through qualifying rounds just to get into the main draw. She's just 18, so new to all of this, and yet no one has figured out a way to stop her.

Not even take a set off her. Showing off the shots and poise of someone much more experienced, the 150th-ranked Raducanu became the first qualifier to get to the U.S. Open semifinals in the professional era — and, remarkably, the second teen in two days to secure a spot in the final four — by eliminating Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Belinda Bencic 6-3, 6-4 on Wednesday.

"To have so many young players here doing so well — it just shows how strong the next generation is," said Britain's Raducanu, who joins Canada's Leylah Fernandez, 19, in the semifinals. "Everyone's on their trajectory. ... It's my own journey at the end of the day." And what a ride she is on at the moment.



Emma Raducanu, of Great Britain, returns a shot to Belinda Bencic, of Switzerland, during the quarterfinals of the US Open tennis championships, Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021, in New York.

Associated Press

Raducanu won all 16 sets she has contested through eight matches over the past 1 1/2 weeks — three during the qualifying rounds and another five in the main draw. She next will face No. 4 seed Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic, a two-time major runner-up, or No. 17 seed

Maria Sakkari of Greece, a semifinalist at this year's French Open, on Thursday for a spot in the final. The other women's semifinal will be the 73rd-ranked Fernandez against No. 2 seed Aryna Sabalenka. In Wednesday's men's quarterfinals, Novak Djokovic was scheduled to try to ex-

tend his bid for a calendar-year Grand Slam by facing Matteo Berrettini at night in a rematch of the Wimbledon final, while Olympic champion Alexander Zverev met Lloyd Harris. Raducanu was ranked outside of the top 300 in late June when she got a chance to play at Wimble-

don thanks to a wild-card invitation. In that Grand Slam debut, she reached the fourth round before stopping during that match when she had trouble breathing.

That tournament allowed the world to begin to get familiar with her style of crisp, clean tennis, managing to attack early in points from the baseline without sacrificing accuracy. By the end against the 11th-seeded Bencic, a U.S. Open semifinalist in 2019, Raducanu had nearly twice as many winners as unforced errors, 23-12.

She also showed gumption, particularly at the end, when she fell behind love-30 in each of her last two service games before pulling through.

At the outset, Raducanu trailed 3-1.

"Her ball speed definitely caught me off-guard," Raducanu said about the hard-hitting Bencic. "I definitely had to try to adapt." She did just that. Quickly, too. From there, Raducanu reeled off five games in a row to take the opening set, the first dropped by Bencic all tournament. □

NHL's Panthers offer deals to 200 FAU female athletes

By TIM REYNOLDS

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — The Florida Panthers were seeking a female athlete from Florida Atlantic University to be the next college student they sign to an endorsement deal.

Unable to choose one, they're making the offer to more than 200 of them. The NHL team said Wednesday that it will sign any interested and eligible FAU female athlete to a deal under the new rules that allow college players to capitalize on their name, image and likeness for endorsement opportunities.

No other major sports franchise is known to have made such an offer, and it comes after the Panthers became the first pro team to sign a college athlete as an endorser when they struck a deal with Miami

quarterback D'Eriq King earlier this summer.

"There are a lot of businesses out there that are doing deals with full teams, but they're all on the men's side of things," Panthers chief strategy officer Sam Doerr said. "And we said, 'Why not do that on the female side of things?' We talked about basketball and a couple other sports at FAU, then decided we didn't want to leave anyone out and said we'd just make the offer to everybody."

FAU fields women's teams in basketball, beach volleyball, golf, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, cross-country and track and field, volleyball and spirit — a total of just over 200 athletes. The campus is in Boca Raton, about a 30-minute drive northeast of the arena where the

Panthers play.

The FAU athletes will be invited to attend Panthers games and engage with their social media followers, receiving some team merchandise in return. Interested FAU athletes will register with Dreamfield, a company King co-founded, to redeem the Panthers' offer; Dreamfield has partnered with the team and will manage the logistics that come with the deals.

Doerr said the Panthers have allocated funds in anticipation of all 200 athletes signing.

"We talked about this from Day 1," Doerr said. "We really, truly believe there is a market out there for female athletes. We've got 200 athletes we can work with in different ways and grow the brand. And at the very least, as a commu-



This Feb. 20, 2021 photo shows FAU utility player Riley Ennis during an NCAA softball game in Boca Raton, Fla.

Associated Press

nity member, we feel really positive about the impact we'll be able to have with a school right up the road." King's deal with the Panthers includes plans to develop a merchandise collection and his own exclusive concession menu

item to be available at all Panthers home games and events for the coming season. The Panthers were the first NHL team to unveil a plan for partnering with college athletes in these now-approved endorsement opportunities. □

NFL QB youth movement features 13 starters 25 or younger

By **JOSH DUBOW**
AP Pro Football Writer

There's a quarterback youth movement that has hit the NFL.

With five QBs drafted in the first round for the second time in the past four seasons, the NFL has a staggering number of young quarterbacks led by the three projected rookie starters: Trevor Lawrence in Jacksonville, Zach Wilson for the Jets and Mac Jones in New England.

This will be the second season since the merger when more than two rookie QBs start in Week 1, following the 2012 class that had Andrew Luck, Robert Griffin III, Ryan Tannehill, Brandon Weeden and Russell Wilson all start the opener.

The youth movement has really hit the AFC East, where all four Week 1 starters are age 25 or younger, with Buffalo's Josh Allen (25) and Miami's Tua Tagovailoa (23) joining Wilson (22) and Jones (23).

The last time a division had four starting Week 1 QBs that young came in 1983 when the AFC East did it with Dan Marino, Ken O'Brien, Tony Eason and



Dallas Cowboys defensive end Ron'Dell Carter (97) pressures as Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Trevor Lawrence (16) throws a pass in the first half of a preseason NFL football game in Arlington, Texas, Sunday, Aug. 29, 2021.

Associated Press

Art Schlichter. This will be the fourth time since the merger that two rookie QBs in the same division started the opener, with Dallas' Dak Prescott and Philadelphia's Carson Wentz doing it in 2016.

In all, the NFL is projected to have 13 quarterbacks age 25 or younger starting in Week 1, tied for the second-most ever to the 16

that did it in 2013.

On the other end of the spectrum, Tampa Bay's Tom Brady will be the first 44-year-old quarterback to start a season opener after previously being the first to do it at age 42 and 43.

The only players older than Brady to appear in a Week 1 game are kickers George Blanda, Adam Vinatieri and John Carney.

Blanda will remain the oldest to throw a pass. He went 4 for 11 for 64 yards and a TD to Raymond Chester for the Raiders against the Steelers in a relief effort on his 45th birthday in 1972.

OPENING THOUGHTS

No franchise can match the Cleveland Browns when it comes to starting off the season on the wrong note. The Browns are

0-15-1 in their past 16 openers since beating Baltimore 20-3 in 2004 with Jeff Garcia at quarterback.

No other team in NFL history has gone winless in Week 1 in more than nine straight seasons, with Washington (1959-67) and Philadelphia (1968-1976) doing that.

The Browns open at Kansas City, which is tied with Green Bay for the longest active Week 1 winning streak at six games in a row. The Chiefs have won 14 straight September games since a 19-12 loss at Houston in 2016.

The other team that has been dominant early is Baltimore, which has outscored opponents 177-26 in winning the past five openers.

TURNAROUND TEAMS

In 17 of the past 18 seasons, at least two teams that missed the playoffs the previous year ended up as division champs.

In all, 59 teams have done it, with Pittsburgh and Washington joining that group in 2020. That should give hope to plenty of teams, with 24 of those teams having gone from last to first in one year. □

Stricker fills out U.S. team with 4 more Ryder Cup rookies



Tony Finau hits from the tee on the second hole during second-round play in the Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Golf Club, Friday, Sept. 3, 2021, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

Equipped with the most captain's picks in Ryder Cup history, Steve Stricker added four more rookies to his American team that included a mixture of obvi-

ous choices and perhaps a surprise, but no Patrick Reed.

Stricker filled out his 12-man team with Tony Finau, Xander Schauffele, Jordan Spieth and Harris English. They were the next four in

the Ryder Cup standings. The other two picks went to Daniel Berger and Scottie Scheffler.

Reed has a history of thriving in team events with his personality and short game. He has a 7-3-2 record in the previous three Ryder Cups and is undefeated in singles. But he has had a poor summer, and Reed couldn't play the final two qualifying events while hospitalized with pneumonia that made him fear for his life.

He returned to play the Tour Championship and tied for 17th in the actual score from the 30-man field.

Europe's qualifying ends after this week's BMW PGA Championship in England, and then Pdraig Harrington announces three captain's picks. The Ryder Cup is Sept. 24-26 at Whis-

ting Straits in Wisconsin. Europe not only is defending champion, it has won nine of the last 12 times dating to 1995.

The six automatic qualifiers were Collin Morikawa, Dustin Johnson, Bryson DeChambeau, Justin Thomas, Brooks Koepka and Patrick Cantlay. Scheffler becomes the first American to be picked for his first Ryder Cup without having won on the PGA Tour since Rickie Fowler in 2010 at Wales. Scheffler has been a steady presence, was runner-up at the Dell Match Play in March and is No. 21 in the world. He finished 14th in the Ryder Cup standings.

Most striking is the experience. Among the six who qualified, two-time major champion Morikawa and FedEx Cup champion Cantlay have never played

in the Ryder Cup. The four picks who will make the Ryder Cup debuts are Schauffele, English, Berger and Scheffler.

The six rookies is the most for the Americans since there were six on the 2008 team that won at Valhalla.

Cantlay and Schauffele were a tough team at the Presidents Cup in 2019. Berger played in the Presidents Cup in 2017. Morikawa, English and Scheffler will be playing in this format for the first time as professionals.

The U.S. team typically has eight automatic qualifiers and four captain's picks. That was increased to six for this Ryder Cup because of uncertainty of how the COVID-19 pandemic — which postponed the matches for one year — would affect the tour schedule. □